

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 160800Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3003

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2234

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ AND WEINBERGER)

SUBJ: US VISITS TO AUSTRALIA

REF: STATE 075644

1. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS AND AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION LEADERS OF CANCELLATION OF SHULTZ AND WEINBERGER VISITS. EMBASSY STRESSED USG CONCERN TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE IMPLICATION OF AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS. ALSO APOLOGIZED FOR UNAVOIDABLE LATENESS OF NOTIFICATION.

2. TREASURER CREAN HAS EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT MISSING OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SECRETARY SHULTZ AND CORAL SEA EVENT ORGANIZERS ARE OF COURSE DISAPPOINTED, BUT US DECISION IS UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED. DO NOT ANTICIPATE WE WILL SUFFER POLITICAL COST FROM THIS ACTION. WE MAY IN FACT BENEFIT FROM RECOGNITION OF OUR SCRUPULOUS APPROACH TOWARD ELECTIONS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD WARMLY WELCOME VISIT TO AUSTRALIA LATER IN YEAR FROM SECRETARY AND MRS. WEINBERGER. SHOULD WEINBERGERS BE ABLE TO RESCHEDULE, THIS UNEXPECTED CHANGE IN TIMING MAY SERVE TO SUPPORT OUR OBJECTIVE OF GRADUALLY DE-EMPHASIZING CORAL SEA COMMEMORATION, WITH ITS HISTORICAL MILITARY AND ANTI-JAPANESE TONE, IN FAVOR OF SOME VARIETY OF ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN

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FRIENDSHIP WEEK.

4. AMBASSADOR CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE AND WISHES
PARTICULARLY TO THANK DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH FOR HIS
ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR WEINBERGERS TOCOME.
GREEN

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NNN

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